

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

March 2005



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

Please note data revisions

Revised: Civilian labor force and unemployment estimates for 2004 have been revised and will be revised again before next month's data is released. Employment-by-industry estimates have also been revised. As always, data herein supersedes previously released data and will be superseded by subsequent releases.

Adams County's unemployment rate climbed faster than it usually does in the winter months, leaving it further above the typical level than it has been at any point in the last 12 months. In May and June of 2004, the leisure & hospitality employment estimate was nearly 120 jobs or 17 percent above the year-ago estimate; now it is 71 jobs or 17 percent below year-ago estimates.

The February unemployment rate in **Forest County** rose more slowly than usual, counterbalancing much of the faster-than-usual increase in January.

In five of the six months from September through February, total nonfarm employment estimates have been below year-ago levels.

Since November, **Lanlade County's** unemployment rate has been below its typical levels. In the information, professional, business & other services sector, employment estimates remain below year-ago levels, but less so than at any point in the last 12 months. At no point in the last year have total employment estimates been as much as 2 percent or 200 jobs over year-ago estimates.

In **Lincoln County** the unemployment rate rose more slowly than it usually does in February and sat further below the typical level than at any point in the last year. Total employment estimates are down 240 jobs or 2.1 percent from last February, further below year-ago levels than at any point in the last year. Much of this shortfall relates to manufacturing employment estimates, which have been progressively further below year-ago levels since August 2004.

Not since last February and March has **Marathon County's** unemployment

rate been as far below its typical level as it was this January and February. Up 900 jobs or 5.0 percent, the manufacturing employment estimate is as far above year-ago levels as it has been at any point in the last 12 months. The retail trade employment estimate remained below year-ago estimates in January and February, but less so than it had been for the rest of the last year.

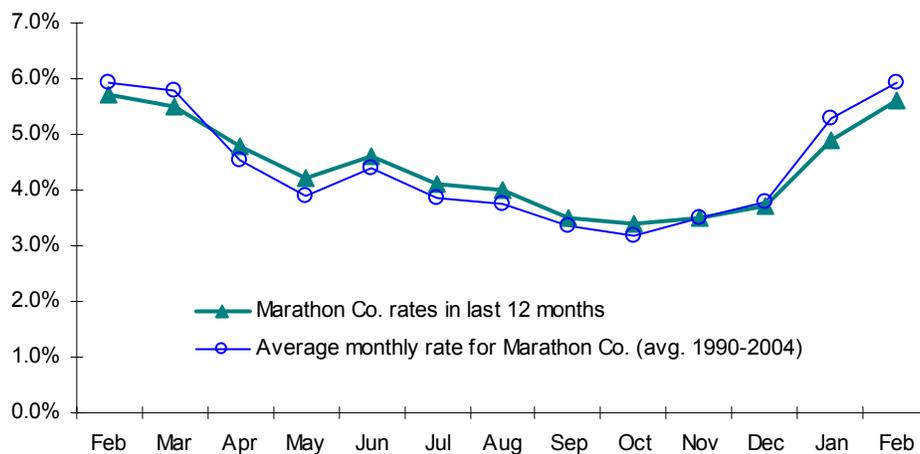
In **Portage County** the unemployment rate was 0.4 percent above its typical February level, which is consistent with recent months' rates. The manufacturing employment estimate appeared to be firming up between February 2004 and July 2004, but has softened since then, leaving it 210 jobs or 4.6 percent below year-ago levels.

Vilas County's unemployment rate remained 0.6 percent above its typical February level, which is closer to normal than seven of the last ten months. In April of 2004, the retail & wholesale trade employment estimate was roughly 80 jobs or 5.6 percent above its April 2003 level; by February 2005, the estimate was less than 30

jobs or 2.1 percent above its February 2004 level. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates were about 570 jobs or 19 percent above year-ago levels in July and August of 2004; by February 2005 the estimate was 90 jobs or 6.1 percent below the year-ago level.

In **Wood County**, the unemployment rate rose as it usually does, remaining roughly 1.2 percent above its typical level. (July was the only month in the last year with a rate further above typical.) Roughly 330 jobs or 5.0% below the year-ago level, February's manufacturing employment estimate is as bright as any has been in the last 12 months.

Unemployment rates – not seasonally adjusted



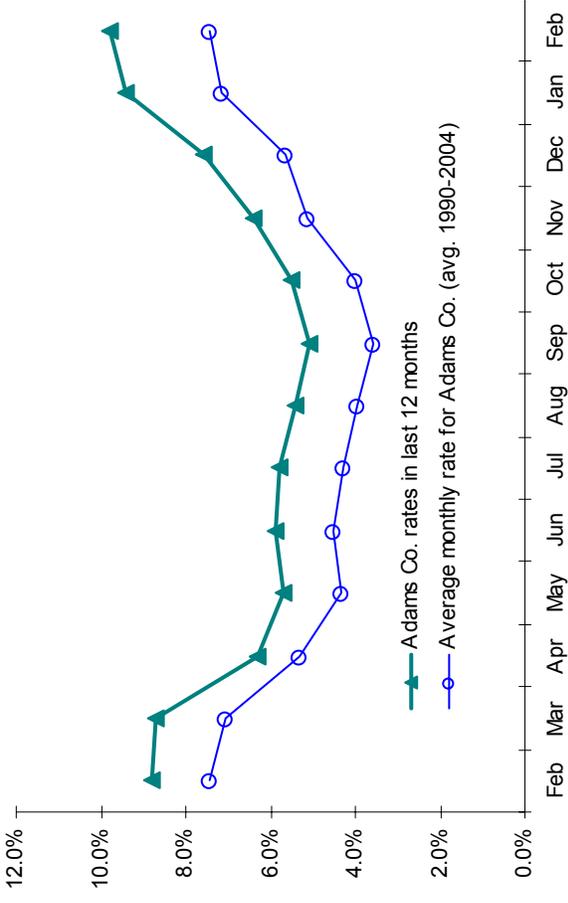
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Oneida County's unemployment rate rose as it usually does in February, leaving as far above typical as it has been in the last year. February's construction employment estimate was just 20 jobs or 2.1 percent above the year-ago level, which is a narrowest margin in the last

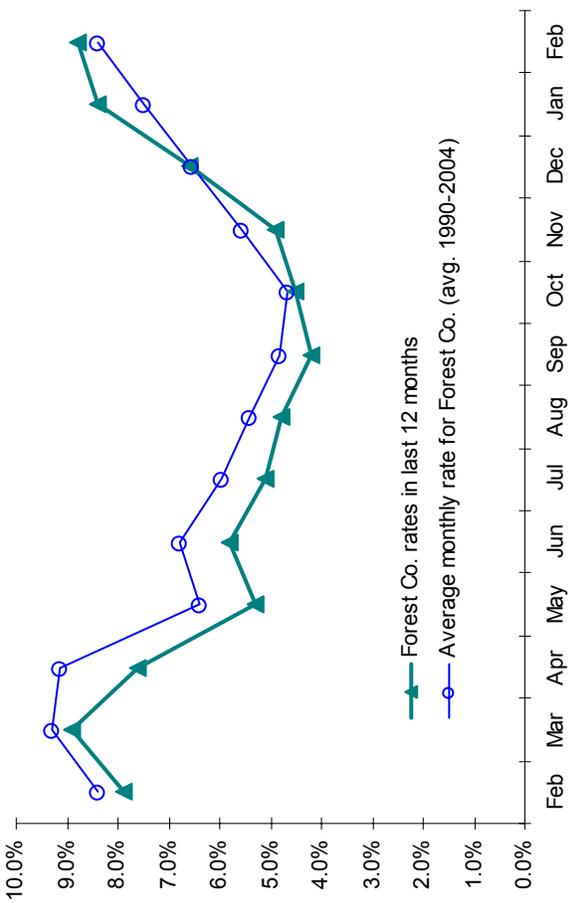
Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted															
	Wisconsin			Adams County			Forest County			Langlade County			Lincoln County		
	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,765,400	15,700	38,100	3,900	-10	-10	3,300	-30	-60	7,700	20	70	11,500	-100	-240
Const., min'g & nat. resources	116,300	1,500	5,500	170	-10	10	80	-10	10	310	-10	-10	300	-20	-60
Manufacturing	497,900	1,600	5,300	410	-10	10	360	0	0	1,600	10	100	3,500	-40	-180
Trade (w/wholesale & retail)	421,600	-7,000	2,500	470	-20	-10	300	-10	0	1,490	-10	-10	1,530	-40	-40
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	104,100	-600	700	130	0	0	160	0	0	380	0	0	360	0	-10
Financial activities	156,800	200	300	90	0	0	110	0	0	340	0	30	860	0	60
Education & health services	383,300	2,800	12,000	550	0	30	370	-30	0	970	-10	0	1,060	0	0
Leisure & hospitality	233,500	-800	4,100	430	10	-70	150	0	-40	710	-10	-10	970	10	0
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	425,600	3,100	1,700	430	0	20	200	10	10	720	20	-20	940	0	-20
Government	426,300	14,900	6,000	1,230	10	0	1,620	0	-30	1,150	30	-20	1,980	-10	10
Civilian Labor Force**	3,047,500	100	-12,900	9,200	-20	-90	4,900	-50	-160	10,400	0	-350	15,700	-100	-540
Employed	2,870,500	-12,330	-1,870	8,300	-50	-180	4,500	-70	-190	9,600	-40	-240	14,500	-180	-420
Unemployed	177,000	12,400	-11,030	900	30	90	440	20	30	800	40	-110	1,130	80	-130
Unemployment rate	5.8%	0.4%	-0.3%	9.8%	0.4%	1.0%	8.8%	0.4%	0.9%	7.6%	0.3%	-0.8%	7.2%	0.5%	-0.6%
	Marathon County			Oneida County			Portage County			Vilas County			Wood County		
	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	69,400	-200	1,200	17,400	-100	10	33,600	0	160	7,500	-100	-100	41,700	-50	-80
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,700	0	300	1,020	-30	20	990	10	50	720	-20	20	1,350	-40	10
Manufacturing	18,000	200	900	1,280	-20	-100	4,600	-70	-210	280	-10	-30	6,600	-80	-330
Trade (w/wholesale & retail)	13,000	-400	-100	4,200	-80	220	5,900	-320	230	1,320	-40	30	5,900	-150	-170
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,700	0	100	420	0	-10	1,660	-10	-80	150	0	10	3,200	40	90
Financial activities	5,000	0	100	520	0	-10	3,900	-20	-70	350	0	20	1,210	-10	60
Education & health services	7,500	0	200	3,600	-100	-40	3,500	0	160	700	0	10	10,400	20	190
Leisure & hospitality	4,600	-100	-200	1,930	-20	40	2,800	50	-50	1,390	-50	-90	2,800	-30	10
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	7,800	-100	0	2,000	10	-50	4,300	20	160	580	0	10	4,900	70	110
Government	8,100	200	-100	2,500	130	-70	6,100	320	-30	2,000	20	-90	5,300	130	-60
Civilian Labor Force**	73,600	210	-180	19,800	-120	-260	40,300	-80	-560	10,800	-90	-240	40,700	-90	-660
Employed	69,400	-300	-100	18,100	-220	-280	37,900	-230	-440	9,800	-170	-230	37,600	-270	-660
Unemployed	4,100	510	-80	1,670	90	20	2,400	150	-120	970	80	-10	3,100	190	0
Unemployment rate	5.6%	0.7%	-0.1%	8.4%	0.5%	0.2%	6.0%	0.4%	-0.2%	9.0%	0.8%	0.1%	7.6%	0.5%	0.1%

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers ≥ 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers < 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.
 *Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area.
 For more information call (608) 242-4885, email dan.barrollnet@dwd.state.wi.us, or see <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oes/>.

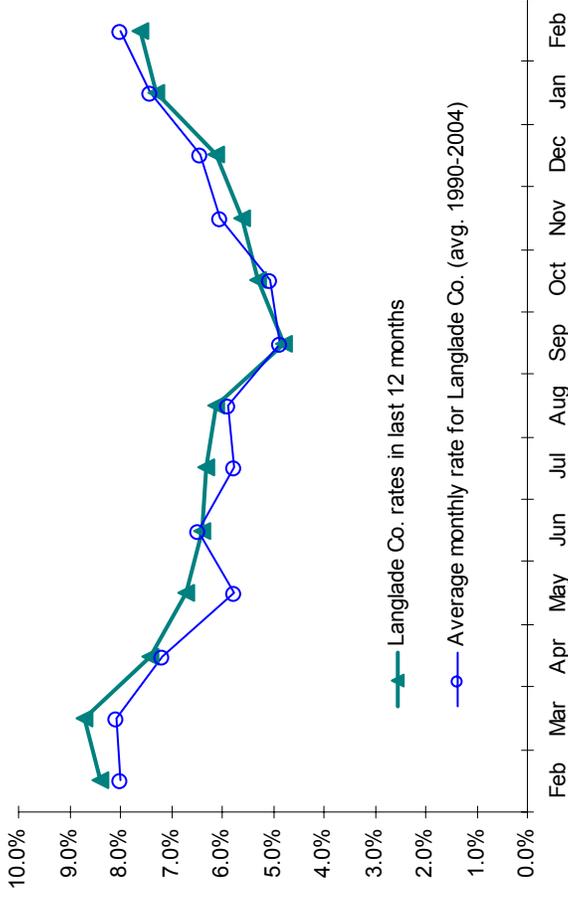
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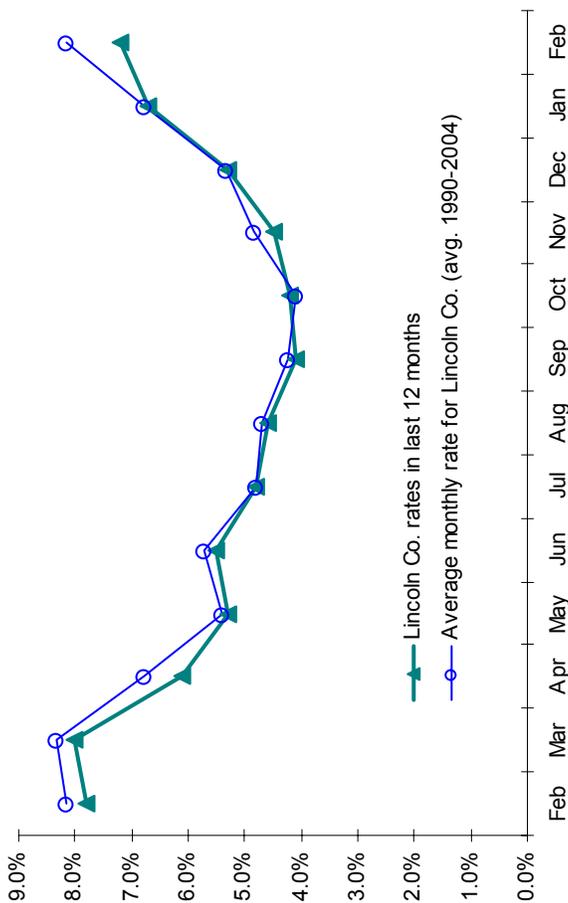
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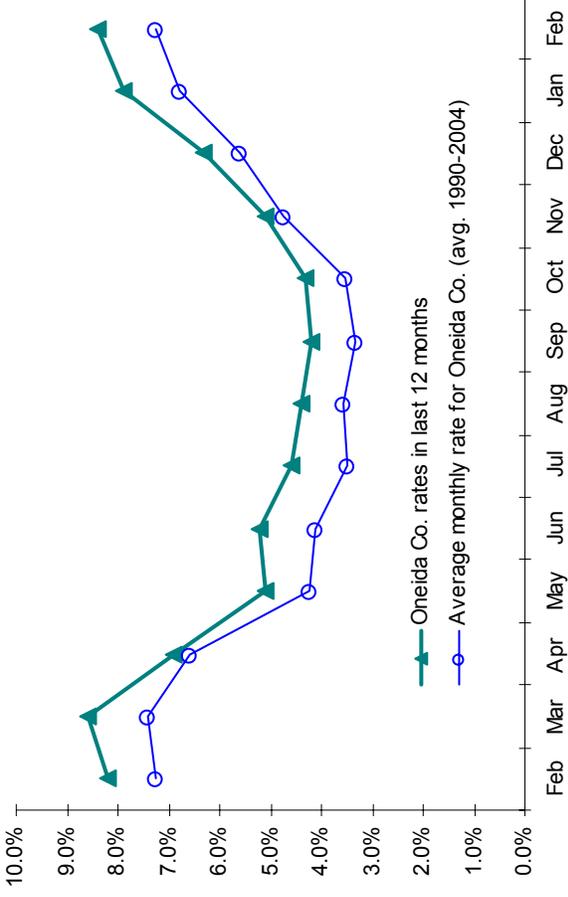
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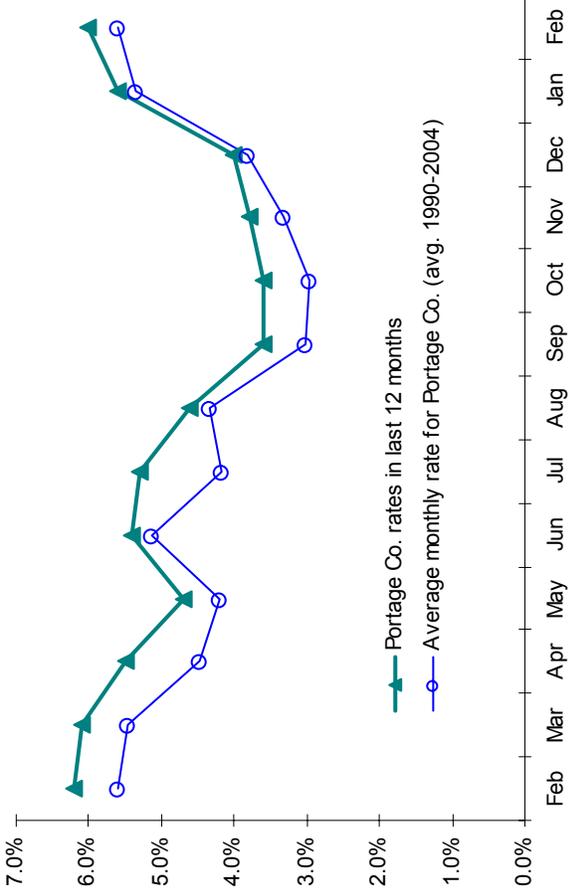
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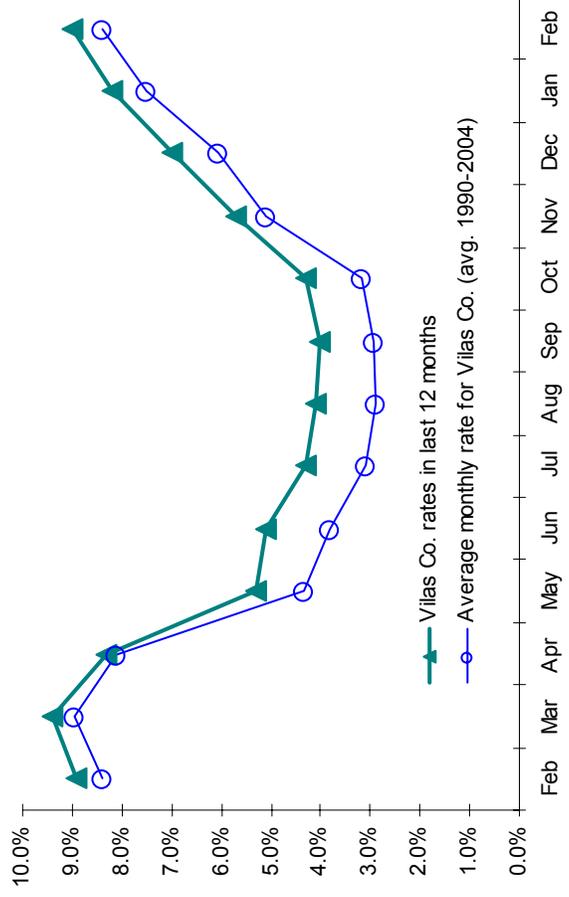
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